

DIAGNOSTIC AND PROTECTIVE ANTIGEN GENE SEQUENCES OF ICHTHYOPHTHIRIUS

Abstract of the Invention

A novel i-antigen protein from *Ichthyophthirius multifiliis* is effective to induce a protective immune response in fish. The invention includes antigenic and membrane-targeting sequences of i-antigen proteins, nucleic acid molecules that encode antigenic or membrane-targeting portions of i-antigen proteins, DNA and protein subunit vaccines, methods of inducing an immune response in fish and methods for detection and characterization of *I. multifiliis*.

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER:

ELI91577B4US

DATE OF DEPOSIT:

February 4, 2000

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